

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

## Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

### February, 2002

*This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Seventeenth Essex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.*

#### Residents of Seventeenth Essex Representative District

##### **Treatment Admissions:**

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.2% (2,674) reside in the Seventeenth Essex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (508) of Seventeenth Essex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 75.9% of admissions from the Seventeenth Essex Representative District were male and 24.1% were female.
- Over 65.5% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 41.1% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.5% were black non-Latino, 51.2% were Latino, 0.4% were Asian, and 3.8% were other racial categories.
- 65.4% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 13.2% were married, and 12.6% reported not to be married now.
- 45.1% of admissions had less than high school education, 41.8% completed high school, and 13.2% had more than high school education.
- 24.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 20.2% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

##### **Substances Used in Past Year:**

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

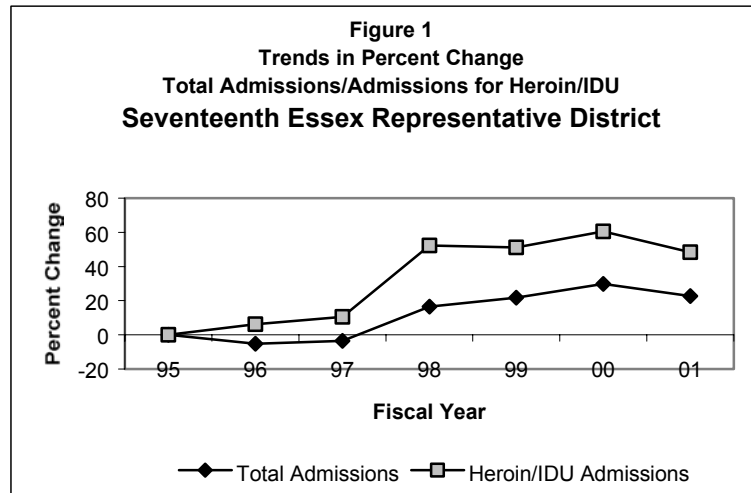
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Seventeenth Essex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

<b>Table 1</b> <b>Annual Admissions by Substance Used</b> <b>FY 1995 – FY 2001</b>							
<b>Seventeenth Essex Representative District</b>							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
<b>FY '95</b>	2,181	1,448	606	724	729	1,001	585
<b>FY '96</b>	2,069	1,398	620	602	605	1,038	648
<b>FY '97</b>	2,106	1,304	496	569	512	1,067	686
<b>FY '98</b>	2,541	1,472	644	698	426	1,438	976
<b>FY '99</b>	2,657	1,540	728	815	493	1,466	932
<b>FY '00</b>	2,833	1,674	856	890	529	1,516	1,030
<b>FY '01</b>	2,674	1,503	743	851	412	1,434	918

- Since dropping in FY 1997, residents of Seventeenth Essex Representative District reported an increase in alcohol, marijuana and cocaine use, with a notable peak in FY 2000. Alcohol use increased by 15%, and, marijuana and cocaine use by 49%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use increased by 43%, while crack use decreased by 76%.

### Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Seventeenth Essex Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV<sup>1</sup>.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 23% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 48%.

### Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Seventeenth Essex Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	26.2%	54.7%	7.0%	5.2%	3.4%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, heroin, marijuana, and cocaine as a primary drug was higher, and alcohol was lower within your District.

<sup>1</sup> The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000